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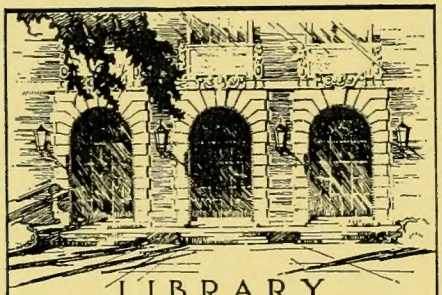

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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OF ILLINOIS RIVERS:

A Statistical Report for 1950

William C. Starrett and Sam A. Parr

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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OF ILLINOIS RIVERS:

A Statistical Report for 1950

WILLIAM C. STARRETT AND SAM A. PARR*

Many Illinoisans not residing near one of the large rivers of their state are surprised to learn that commercial fishing is an important industry here. This industry is reported to have provided, in 1950, full-time employment for 253 Illinois fishermen and part-time work for 442, table 1. These fishermen are calculated to have caught 8,954,015 pounds of fish that, at average local undressed prices, were valued at $ 682,260.85, tables 2 and 3. They are estimated to have had $ 748,049.50 invested in tackle and equipment, table 4.

Carp, buffalofishes, freshwater drum, and catfishes comprised the bulk of the 1950 river catch; other species were of some commercial significance, table 5.

Along some sections of the rivers the entire 1950 catch was sold locally. Most of the catch not sold locally was shipped to markets in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Missouri, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Nashville, and Indianapolis.

The last previous complete survey of the state's river fisheries was made relative to the 1931 catch (Fiedler 1933). The present report includes statistics of

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*/ *The writers, William C. Starrett, Associate Aquatic Biologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, and Sam A. Parr, Superintendent, Division of Fisheries, Illinois Department of Conservation, wish to acknowledge the splendid co-operation given by Mr. Sam Carney, Jr., Chief, Division of Law Enforcement, Illinois Department of Conservation, and by the conservation officers who, during January, February, and March, 1951, collected from Illinois professional commercial fishermen the statistical data presented in this report. They express their appreciation to Dr. George W. Bennett, Aquatic Biologist of the Illinois Natural History Survey, and Mr. James S. Ayars, Technical Editor of the Survey, for aid in the preparation of this report.*

only professional commercial fishermen residing in Illinois. By definition for this report, a professional commercial fisherman is a person purchasing tags or licenses for five or more nets.

The catch of such fishermen from the Illinois and Mississippi rivers amounted to 93.9 per cent of the total 1950 commercial catch from the rivers within or bordering Illinois (except the Ohio River proper). The catch from the Wabash River ranked third, 1.9 per cent of the total catch. The remainder of the reported 1950 catch was from the Little Wabash River, Skillet Fork, Sangamon River, Kaskaskia River, Rock River, Fox River and Chain O' Lakes, Big Muddy River, Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, backwater areas of the Ohio River (Ohio River proper not included in this report), Embarrass River, and Horseshoe Lake near Granite City, Illinois, tables 2 and 3.

Commercial fisherman with hoop net and basket trap on the Mississippi River near Hamilton, Illinois.

The Illinois River commercial fishery is confined to the Ottawa-Grafton section of the river. Above Ottawa, pollution makes the fish unfit for commercial use. Between La Salle and Ottawa, in the Starved Rock Pool, the reported catch was 10,315 pounds, worth $ 705.52, tables 6 and 7. In the Peoria Pool, between Peoria and La Salle, the reported yield was 2,790,765 pounds, worth $ 105,668.96. These differences in yields between the Peoria Pool, Starved Rock Pool, and the river above Ottawa demonstrate one of the economic effects that pollution has on the river. Because of better water conditions in the Peoria Pool, 46 persons in 1950 were reported able to earn their entire living by fishing and 44 others part of their earnings, whereas, above Ottawa, no income was reported from river fishing. The total yield from the Illinois River in 1950 was reported as 5,617,927 pounds, worth $ 335,548.69. Carp comprised 70.2 per cent of this catch. The bullhead fishery of the state is now limited largely to the Peoria and La Grange pools of the Illinois River. Illinois River fishermen reported that their investment in tackle and equipment was $ 395,967.00, table 8.

Illinois professional commercial fishermen are reported to have caught 2,788,073 pounds of fish from the Mississippi River in 1950, table 9. This catch was calculated as worth $ 297,045.23, table 10. Buffalofishes outranked carp in poundage and value. The reported catfish catch of 396,908 pounds from the Mississippi was worth $ 93,462.70. Mississippi River fishermen from Illinois reported that in 1950 they had $ 274,367.00 invested in tackle and equipment, table 11. The highest commercial yields in the Illinois section of the Mississippi River were from navigation pools 19 (Keokuk Pool) and 26 (Alton Pool). In the past decade commercial fishing in the Mississippi has declined in the Alton-Cairo section because of pollution.

Hoop nets and wing nets are estimated to have caught 46.7 per cent of the 1950 river catch. These devices were used on all the rivers fished commercially in 1950. The species and calculated poundages of fish caught in hoop nets are given in table 12.

More fish were taken with seines from the Illinois River than from any of the other rivers, table 13. On the Illinois and Mississippi rivers large hauls of carp and buffalofishes often are made with seines fished under the ice during the winter months.

In Illinois the use of the trammel net is restricted by law to the Mississippi River and to the Illinois River below the Peoria dam. Carp and buffalofishes dominated the 1950 catch taken with trammel nets from the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, table 14.

The basket trap is estimated to have taken 52.3 per cent of the Mississippi River catch of catfish. While this fishing device was used primarily for catfish and bullheads, other fishes were taken occasionally with it, table 15.

Hooks were used commercially on trotlines and throw lines on most of the rivers. Carp and catfish made up the greater part of the catch taken on this type of gear, table 16.

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Table 1.--Reported number of full-time and part-time commercial fishermen actively engaged in river fishing in Illinois during 1950. (Only those fishermen were included in this or following tables who had purchased tags or licenses for five or more nets.)

Type of Fisherman	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash River	Little Wabash River and Skillet Fork	Sangamon River
Full time	106	122	10	1	1
Part time	169	126	39	14	23
Total	275	248	49	15	24

Type of Fisherman	Kaskaskia River	Rock River	Fox River and Chain O' Lakes	Big Muddy River
Full time	1	4	0	1
Part time	21	4	4	10
Total	22	8	4	11

Type of Fisherman	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, and Backwaters of Ohio River	Embarrass River	Horseshoe Lake, Granite City	Grand Total
Full time	3	0	4	253
Part time	18	6	8	442
Total	21	6	12	695

Table 2.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash River	Little Wabash River and Skillet Fork	Sangamon River
Carp	3,943,974	936,295	80,693	15,311	48,550
Buffalofishes	1,339,429	1,021,521	42,714	20,728	32,250
Drum	108,385	365,512	5,825	1,735	5,285
Catfishes	105,554	396,908	16,173	2,036	5,775
Bullheads	80,872	5,847	710	25	1,000
Shovelnose sturgeon	90	2,809	6,641	--	--
Paddlefish	26,249	41,843	3,949	200	--
Suckers	972	4,020	2,177	866	350
Carpsuckers	1,857	12,309	9,798	--	500
Mooneye[1/]	--	225	--	--	--
Bowfin	10,525	150	40	266	--
Eel	20	634	575	400	--
Total	5,617,927	2,788,073	169,295	41,567	93,710

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 2 (continued).--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Kaskaskia River	Rock River	Fox River and Chain O'Lakes	Big Muddy River
Carp	20,780	7,649	48,890	19,167
Buffalofishes	5,815	14,183	140	7,415
Drum	85	--	--	849
Catfishes	237	200	--	396
Bullheads	150	--	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	--
Paddlefish	--	--	--	--
Suckers	--	3,000	500	--
Carpsuckers	--	3,500	--	--
Mooneye[1/]	--	--	--	--
Bowfin	--	75	--	--
Eel	--	--	--	--
Total	27,067	28,607	49,530	27,827

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 2 (concluded).--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, and Backwaters of Ohio River	Embarrass River	Horseshoe Lake, Granite City	Total
Carp	18,399	2,066	32,373	5,174,147
Buffalofishes	33,436	1,116	5,571	2,524,318
Drum	1,500	--	--	489,176
Catfishes	1,829	530	594	530,232
Bullheads	--	33	12,250	100,887
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	9,540
Paddlefish	--	--	--	72,241
Suckers	--	--	--	11,885
Carpsuckers	--	--	--	27,964
Mooneye[1/]	--	--	--	225
Bowfin	--	--	715	11,771
Eel	--	--	--	1,629
Total	55,164	3,745	51,503	8,954,015

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 3.--Calculated value of the reported catch of fish taken from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.[1/]

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash River	Little Wabash River and Skillet Fork[2/]
Carp	$161,418.49	$ 47,786.72	$ 6,778.21	$1,286.12
Buffalofishes	124,989.03	108,426.07	3,844.26	1,865.52
Drum	10,354.40	37,491.90	1,095.10	326.18
Catfishes	21,414.62	93,462.70	4,043.25	509.00
Bullheads	12,475.23	1,170.84	149.10	5.25
Shovelnose sturgeon	9.90	625.80	1,368.05	--
Paddlefish	4,202.64	7,503.57	750.31	38.00
Suckers	55.35	135.80	154.57	61.49
Carpsuckers	100.28	338.52	695.66	--
Mooneye[3/]	--	4.25	--	--
Bowfin	524.75	7.00	1.60	10.64
Eel	4.00	92.06	96.03	66.80
Total	$335,548.69	$297,045.23	$18,976.14	$4,169.00

1/ Illinois River and Mississippi River values are based on the average reported species wholesale (undressed) price for each navigation pool. For the other rivers the average reported species wholesale (undressed) price for each respective river is used except where stated otherwise.

2/ No wholesale (undressed) prices available; Wabash River prices used.

3/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 3 (continued).--Calculated value of the reported catch of fish taken from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.[1/]

Kind of Fish	Sangamon River	Kaskaskia River[2/]	Rock River	Fox River and Chain O' Lakes	Big Muddy River[2/]
Carp	$1,699.25	$1,288.36	$ 267.72	$2,444.50	$1,188.35
Buffalofishes	2,580.00	738.51	1,063.73	11.20	941.71
Drum	422.80	11.56	--	--	115.46
Catfishes	1,443.75	55.93	50.00	--	93.46
Bullheads	150.00	32.85	--	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	--	--
Paddlefish	--	--	--	--	--
Suckers	17.50	--	60.00	7.50	--
Carpsuckers	17.50	--	87.50	--	--
Mooneye[3/]	--	--	--	--	--
Bowfin	--	--	2.25	--	--
Eel	--	--	--	--	--
Total	$6,330.80	$2,127.21	$1,531.20	$2,463.20	$2,338.98

1/ Illinois River and Mississippi River values are based on the average reported species wholesale (undressed) price for each navigation pool. For the other rivers the average reported species wholesale (undressed) price for each respective river is used except where stated otherwise.

2/ No wholesale (undressed) prices available; Pool No. 26 Mississippi River prices used.

3/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 3 (concluded).--Calculated value of the reported catch of fish taken from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950. 1/

Kind of Fish	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River and Backwaters of Ohio River 2/	Embarrass River 3/	Horseshoe Lake, Granite City	Total
Carp	$1,140.74	$173.54	$2,104.25	$227,576.25
Buffalofishes	4,246.37	100.44	779.94	249,586.78
Drum	204.00	--	--	50,021.40
Catfishes	431.64	35.00	148.50	121,687.85
Bullheads	--	2.73	2,327.50	16,313.50
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	2,003.75
Paddlefish	--	--	--	12,494.52
Suckers	--	--	--	492.21
Carpsuckers	--	--	--	1,239.46
Mooneye 4/	--	--	--	4.25
Bowfin	--	--	35.75	581.99
Eel	--	--	--	258.89
Total	$6,022.75	$311.71	$5,395.94	$682,260.85

1/ Illinois River and Mississippi River values are based on the average reported species wholesale (undressed) price for each navigation pool. For the other rivers the average reported species wholesale (undressed) price for each respective river is used except where stated otherwise.

2/ No wholesale (undressed) prices available; Pool No. 26 Mississippi River prices used.

3/ No wholesale (undressed) prices available; Wabash River prices used.

4/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 4.--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen on the various rivers of Illinois in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash River	Little Wabash River and Skillet Fork
Fishing Devices				
Seines	$ 40,420.00	$ 10,516.00	$ 100.00	--
Trammel nets	2,692.50	5,997.50	--	--
Hoop nets	66,443.00	61,254.00	8,430.50	$ 2,885.00
Baskets	2,294.00	13,198.50	75.00	100.00
Hooks	460.00	1,310.00	201.00	1.00
Total	$ 112,309.50	$ 92,276.00	$ 8,806.50	$ 2,986.00
Equipment				
Small boats	$ 32,630.00	$ 21,291.00	$ 2,135.00	$ 649.00
Outboard motors	29,780.50	30,547.00	5,139.50	1,732.00
Inboard motor launches	21,550.00	17,150.00	30.00	--
Trucks	57,110.00	57,275.00	2,925.00	90.00
Refrigeration equipment	17,280.00	15,794.00	1,950.00	225.00
Buildings	99,645.00	30,960.00	1,680.00	1,075.00
Miscellaneous equipment	25,662.00	9,074.00	1,113.50	290.00
Total	$ 283,657.50	$ 182,091.00	$ 14,973.00	$ 4,061.00
Grand total	$ 395,967.00	$ 274,367.00	$ 23,779.50	$ 7,047.00

Table 4 (continued).--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen on the various rivers of Illinois in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Sangamon River	Kaskaskia River	Rock River 1/	Fox River and Chain O'Lakes 1/	Big Muddy River
Fishing Devices					
Seines	$ 590.00	--	$ 500.00	$1,300.00	$ 150.00
Trammel nets	100.00	--	--	--	--
Hoop nets	2,520.00	$2,119.00	1,100.00	--	1,315.00
Baskets	633.50	292.00	--	--	12.00
Hooks	--	2.50	14.00	--	23.00
Total	$ 3,843.50	$2,413.50	$1,614.00	$1,300.00	$1,500.00
Equipment					
Small boats	$ 1,337.00	$1,290.00	$ 270.00	$ 775.00	$ 500.00
Outboard motors	2,660.00	1,638.00	515.00	750.00	629.00
Inboard motor launches	--	65.00	--	--	--
Trucks	1,150.00	430.00	150.00	1,100.00	1,225.00
Refrigeration equipment	1,105.00	950.00	--	--	160.00
Buildings	1,000.00	--	--	200.00	688.00
Miscellaneous equipment	110.00	28.00	75.00	1,500.00	140.00
Total	$ 7,362.00	$4,401.00	$1,010.00	$4,325.00	$3,342.00
Grand total	$11,205.50	$6,814.50	$2,624.00	$5,625.00	$4,842.00

1/ Designated as a fish preserve.

Table 4 (concluded).--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen on the various rivers of Illinois in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, and Backwaters of Ohio River	Embarrass River	Horseshoe Lake, Granite City	Total
Fishing Devices				
Seines	$ 285.00	--	$ 950.00	$ 54,811.00
Trammel nets	--	--	--	8,790.00
Hoop nets	1,590.00	$ 485.00	1,300.00	149,441.50
Baskets	--	60.00	25.00	16,690.00
Hooks	78.00	--	--	2,089.50
Total	$ 1,953.00	$ 545.00	$ 2,275.00	$ 231,822.00
Equipment				
Small boats	$ 1,098.00	$ 220.00	$ 725.00	$ 62,920.00
Outboard motors	1,190.00	319.00	600.00	75,500.00
Inboard motor launches	--	--	--	38,795.00
Trucks	4,300.00	--	375.00	126,130.00
Refrigeration equipment	5.00	--	--	37,469.00
Buildings	250.00	--	1,000.00	136,498.00
Miscellaneous equipment	75.00	38.00	810.00	38,915.50
Total	$ 6,918.00	$ 577.00	$ 3,510.00	$ 516,227.50
Grand total	$ 8,871.00	$ 1,122.00	$ 5,785.00	$ 748,049.50

Table 5.--Accepted common, scientific, and local names of fishes of commercial value taken from Illinois rivers.

Accepted Common Name	Scientific Name	Local Name
Carp	Cyprinus carpio Linnaeus	German carp, European carp
Buffalofishes		
Bigmouth buffalo	Megastomatobus cyprinella (Valenciennes)	Redmouth buffalo, stubnose buffalo, roundhead buffalo, brown buffalo, goarhead, bullhead buffalo, bullmouth buffalo, bullnose buffalo, slough buffalo, trumpet buffalo
Black buffalo	Ictiobus niger (Rafinesque)	Mongrel buffalo, bugler, rooter, reefer, round buffalo, sheepshead buffalo, blue buffalo
Smallmouth buffalo	Ictiobus bubalus (Rafinesque)	Razorback buffalo, roachback buffalo, humpback buffalo, channel buffalo, liner buffalo, quillback buffalo
Freshwater drum	Aplodinotus grunniens Rafinesque	White perch, perch, sheepshead, gaspergou, grunting perch, croaker
Catfishes		
Channel catfish	Ictalurus lacustris (Walbaum)	Fiddler, catfish, channel cat, spotted cat
Blue catfish	Ictalurus furcatus (Le Sueur)	Fulton cat, Mississippi cat, chucklehead cat, coal boater
Flathead catfish	Pilodictis olivaris (Rafinesque)	Hoosier, goujon, shovelnose cat, mudcat, yellow cat, Johnny cat, Morgan cat, flat belly

Bullheads		
Yellow bullhead	Ameiurus natalis (Le Sueur)	Yellow-bellied cat, greaser
Brown bullhead	Ameiurus nebulosus (Le Sueur)	Speckled bullhead
Black bullhead	Ameiurus melas (Rafinesque)	Bullhead
Shovelnose sturgeon	Scaphirhynchus platorynchus (Rafinesque)	Hackleback, switchtail, sand sturgeon
Paddlefish	Polyodon spathula (Walbaum)	Spoonbill cat, spoony
Suckers		
Quillback	Carpiodes cyprinus (Le Sueur)	Silver carp, carpsucker, coldwater carp
River carpsucker	Carpiodes carpio (Rafinesque)	Silver carp, carpsucker
Highfin sucker	Carpiodes velifer (Rafinesque)	Silver carp, river carp, carpsucker
White sucker	Catostomus commersonnii (Lacépède)	Common sucker, fine-scaled sucker
Spotted sucker	Minytrema melanops (Rafinesque)	Striped sucker
Silver redhorse	Moxostoma anisurum (Rafinesque)	Silver mullet
Northern redhorse	Moxostoma aureolum (Le Sueur)	Des Moines plunger, mullet, common redhorse
Mooneyes		
Mooneye	Hiodon tergisus Le Sueur	Toothed herring, white shad
Goldeye	Amphiodon alosoides Rafinesque	Mooneye
Bowfin	Amia calva Linnaeus	Dogfish, grindle, cypress trout, mudfish
American eel	Anguilla bostoniensis (Le Sueur)	Freshwater eel

Table 6.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken from navigation pools of the Illinois River by commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Above Starved Rock Pool	Starved Rock Pool	Peoria Pool	La Grange Pool	Alton Pool	Total
Carp	--	7,200	2,224,879	1,470,407	241,488	3,943,974
Buffalofishes	--	2,200	488,046	676,554	172,629	1,339,429
Drum	--	--	7,177	59,524	41,684	108,385
Catfishes	--	915	2,150	59,370	43,119	105,554
Bullheads	--	--	57,601	22,866	405	80,872
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	--	90	90
Paddlefish	--	--	208	136	25,905	26,249
Suckers	--	--	297	--	675	972
Carpsuckers	--	--	132	--	1,725	1,857
Bowfin	--	--	10,275	100	150	10,525
Eel	--	--	--	--	20	20
Total	--	10,315	2,790,765	2,288,957	527,890	5,617,927

Table 7.--Calculated value of the reported catch of fish taken by commercial fishermen from the Illinois River in 1950; data based on the reported undressed weights and average wholesale (undressed) prices for each navigation pool.

Kind of Fish	Above Starved Rock Pool	Starved Rock Pool	Peoria Pool	La Grange Pool	Alton Pool	Total
Carp	--	$ 295.20	$ 91,220.04	$ 57,345.87	$ 12,557.38	$ 161,418.49
Buffalofishes	--	220.00	48,804.60	58,183.64	17,780.79	124,989.03
Drum	--	--	811.00	5,416.68	4,126.72	10,354.40
Catfishes	--	190.32	447.20	11,161.56	9,615.54	21,414.62
Bullheads	--	--	8,812.95	3,567.10	95.18	12,475.23
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	--	9.90	9.90
Paddlefish	--	--	37.44	20.40	4,144.80	4,202.64
Suckers	--	--	14.85	--	40.50	55.35
Carpsuckers	--	--	7.13	--	93.15	100.28
Bowfin	--	--	513.75	5.00	6.00	524.75
Eel	--	--	--	--	4.00	4.00
Total	--	$ 705.52	$ 105,668.96	$ 135,700.25	$ 48,473.96	$ 335,548.69

Table 8.--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by commercial fishermen on navigation pools of the Illinois River in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Above Starved Rock Pool	Starved Rock Pool	Peoria Pool	La Grange Pool	Alton Pool	Total
Fishing Devices						
Seines	--	$ 600.00	$ 15,800.00	$ 17,680.00	$ 6,340.00	$ 40,420.00
Trammel nets[1/]	--	--	-- [1/]	1,240.00	1,452.50	2,692.50
Hoop nets	--	800.00	19,110.00	34,370.00	12,163.00	66,443.00
Baskets	--	--	350.00	621.00	1,323.00	2,294.00
Hooks	--	--	8.00	364.00	88.00	460.00
Total	--	$ 1,400.00	$ 35,268.00	$ 54,275.00	$ 21,366.50	$ 112,309.50
Equipment						
Small boats	--	$ 425.00	$ 8,100.00	$ 15,950.00	$ 8,155.00	$ 32,630.00
Outboard motors	--	175.00	5,794.50	18,201.00	5,610.00	29,780.50
Inboard motor launches	--	--	11,275.00	8,625.00	1,650.00	21,550.00
Trucks	--	--	26,050.00	16,350.00	14,710.00	57,110.00
Refrigeration equipment	--	--	8,010.00	7,125.00	2,145.00	17,280.00
Buildings	--	--	28,100.00	46,695.00	24,850.00	99,645.00
Miscellaneous equipment	--	500.00	17,945.00	5,852.00	1,365.00	25,662.00
Total	--	$ 1,100.00	$ 105,274.50	$ 118,798.00	$ 58,485.00	$ 283,657.50
Grand total	--	$ 2,500.00	$ 140,542.50	$ 173,073.00	$ 79,851.50	$ 395,967.00

1/ Illegal to use trammel net above Peoria dam on the Illinois River.

Table 9.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken from the Mississippi River by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Pool No. 12	Pool No. 13	Pool No. 14	Pool No. 15	Pool No. 16
Carp	90,407	61,633	33,942	12,567	27,025
Buffalofishes	44,974	113,133	50,011	21,767	48,587
Drum	29,466	14,066	16,167	2,167	8,400
Catfishes	15,387	29,331	3,909	2,543	4,615
Bullheads	100	--	3	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	100	268	--
Paddlefish	100	--	650	--	50
Suckers	320	--	--	1,600	1,000
Carpsuckers	900	800	1,133	400	5,000
Mooneye[1/]	175	--	--	--	--
Bowfin	150	--	--	--	--
Eel	83	5	--	--	--
Total	182,062	218,968	105,915	41,312	94,677

Kind of Fish	Pool No. 17	Pool No. 18	Pool No. 19	Pool No. 20	Pool No. 21
Carp	34,932	69,950	167,713	22,100	26,660
Buffalofishes	56,887	111,492	102,980	13,400	11,100
Drum	36,740	66,616	79,768	5,166	9,881
Catfishes	20,531	26,875	171,911	13,828	5,780
Bullheads	--	50	1,500	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	1,600	200	--	--
Paddlefish	4,698	4,698	5,355	--	1,656
Suckers	--	--	--	--	--
Carpsuckers	--	--	--	--	1,769
Mooneye[1/]	--	--	--	--	--
Bowfin	--	--	--	--	--
Eel	--	--	--	--	--
Total	153,788	281,281	529,427	54,494	56,846

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 9 (concluded).--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken from the Mississippi River by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Pool No. 22	Pool No. 24	Pool No. 25	Pool No. 26
Carp	7,320	30,075	57,385	203,954
Buffalofishes	11,050	20,800	58,594	298,016
Drum	4,069	10,000	26,129	48,324
Catfishes	3,505	7,620	17,286	66,284
Bullheads	--	--	400	3,764
Shovelnose sturgeon	25	100	500	16
Paddlefish	1,465	800	3,100	16,092
Suckers	--	--	--	1,100
Carpsuckers	55	--	600	902
Mooneye[1/]	--	--	--	--
Bowfin	--	--	--	--
Eel	--	--	275	271
Total	27,489	69,395	164,269	638,723

Kind of Fish	Total Catch From Canalized Section of River	Total Catch From Uncanalized River Between Alton and Cairo, Illinois	Grand Total
Carp	845,663	90,632	936,295
Buffalofishes	962,791	58,730	1,021,521
Drum	356,959	8,553	365,512
Catfishes	389,405	7,503	396,908
Bullheads	5,817	30	5,847
Shovelnose sturgeon	2,809	--	2,809
Paddlefish	38,664	3,179	41,843
Suckers	4,020	--	4,020
Carpsuckers	11,559	750	12,309
Mooneye[1/]	175	50	225
Bowfin	150	--	150
Eel	634	--	634
Total	2,618,646	169,427	2,788,073

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 10.--Calculated value of the reported catch of fish taken from the Mississippi River by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950; data based on the reported undressed weights and average wholesale (undressed) prices for each navigation pool.

Kind of Fish	Pool No. 12	Pool No. 13	Pool No. 14	Pool No. 15	Pool No. 16
Carp	$ 3,254.65	$ 2,465.32	$ 1,459.51	$ 628.35	$ 1,108.03
Buffalofishes	4,407.45	9,390.04	4,901.08	2,133.17	3,741.20
Drum	2,769.80	1,462.86	1,584.37	244.87	814.80
Catfishes	4,616.10	7,714.05	977.25	617.95	1,121.46
Bullheads	25.00	--	0.45	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	25.00	56.28	--
Paddlefish	10.00	--	134.55	--	10.00
Suckers	12.80	--	--	48.00	20.00
Carpsuckers	22.50	24.00	22.66	4.00	50.00
Bowfin	2.25	--	--	--	--
Mooneye[1/]	7.00	--	--	--	--
Eel	9.96	1.25	--	--	--
Total	$ 15,137.51	$ 21,057.52	$ 9,104.87	$ 3,732.62	$ 6,865.49

Kind of Fish	Pool No. 17	Pool No. 18	Pool No. 19	Pool No. 20	Pool No. 21
Carp	$ 1,571.94	$ 3,007.85	$ 8,050.22	$ 1,149.20	$ 1,599.60
Buffalofishes	5,631.81	9,811.30	10,606.94	1,340.00	1,110.00
Drum	3,674.00	5,795.59	7,737.50	464.94	988.10
Catfishes	4,783.72	5,697.50	39,367.62	3,069.82	1,156.00
Bullheads	--	7.50	219.00	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	403.20	24.00	--	--
Paddlefish	1,033.56	1,033.56	712.22	--	248.40
Suckers	--	--	--	--	--
Carpsuckers	--	--	--	--	88.45
Bowfin	--	--	--	--	--
Mooneye[1/]	--	--	--	--	--
Eel	--	--	--	--	--
Total	$ 16,695.03	$ 25,756.50	$ 66,717.50	$ 6,023.96	$ 5,190.55

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 10 (concluded).--Calculated value of the reported catch of fish taken from the Mississippi River by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950; data based on the reported undressed weights and average wholesale (undressed) prices for each navigation pool.

Kind of Fish	Pool No. 22	Pool No. 24	Pool No. 25	Pool No. 26
Carp	$ 439.20	$1,804.50	$ 2,984.02	$12,645.15
Buffalofishes	1,105.00	2,496.00	6,445.34	37,848.03
Drum	406.90	1,200.00	2,612.90	6,572.06
Catfishes	701.00	1,905.00	4,321.50	15,643.02
Bullheads	--	--	88.00	824.32
Shovelnose sturgeon	3.00	12.00	100.00	2.32
Paddlefish	219.75	120.00	744.00	2,703.46
Suckers	--	--	--	55.00
Carpsuckers	2.75	--	30.00	51.41
Bowfin	--	--	--	--
Mooneye[1/]	--	--	--	--
Eel	--	--	61.88	18.97
Total	$ 2,877.60	$ 7,537.50	$17,387.64	$76,363.74

Kind of Fish	Total Value of Catch From Canalized Section of River	Total Value of Catch From Uncanalized River Between Alton and Cairo, Illinois	Grand Total
Carp	$ 42,167.54	$ 5,619.18	$ 47,786.72
Buffalofishes	100,967.36	7,458.71	108,426.07
Drum	36,328.69	1,163.21	37,491.90
Catfishes	91,691.99	1,770.71	93,462.70
Bullheads	1,164.27	6.57	1,170.84
Shovelnose sturgeon	625.80	--	625.80
Paddlefish	6,969.50	534.07	7,503.57
Suckers	135.80	--	135.80
Carpsuckers	295.77	42.75	338.52
Bowfin	2.25	2.00	4.25
Mooneye[1/]	7.00	--	7.00
Eel	92.06	--	92.06
Total	$280,448.03	$16,597.20	$297,045.23

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 11.--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen in navigation pools of the Mississippi River in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Pool No. 12	Pool No. 13	Pool No. 14	Pool No. 15	Pool No. 16
Fishing Devices					
Seines	$ 800.00	--	$ 850.00	--	$ 850.00
Trammel nets	145.00	$ 505.00	390.00	$ 100.00	235.00
Hoop nets	2,755.00	4,100.00	2,030.00	700.00	4,100.00
Baskets	1,375.00	820.00	325.00	187.00	370.00
Hooks	32.00	215.00	--	21.00	5.00
Total	$ 5,107.00	$ 5,640.00	$ 3,595.00	$ 1,008.00	$ 5,560.00
Equipment					
Small boats	$ 640.00	$ 1,280.00	$ 695.00	$ 215.00	$ 830.00
Outboard motors	735.00	1,733.00	2,245.00	285.00	1,115.00
Inboard motor launches	5,025.00	400.00	500.00	200.00	1,650.00
Trucks	6,475.00	3,160.00	2,375.00	250.00	1,600.00
Refrigeration equipment	1,955.00	--	10.00	--	500.00
Buildings	4,525.00	3,250.00	--	--	1,600.00
Miscellaneous equipment	200.00	275.00	1,440.00	570.00	125.00
Total	$ 19,555.00	$ 10,098.00	$ 7,265.00	$ 1,520.00	$ 7,420.00
Grand total	$ 24,662.00	$ 15,738.00	$ 10,860.00	$ 2,528.00	$ 12,980.00

Table 11 (continued).--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen in navigation pools of the Mississippi River in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Pool No. 17	Pool No. 18	Pool No. 19	Pool No. 20	Pool No. 21
Fishing Devices					
Seines	$ 850.00	$ 1,150.00	$ 2,275.00	--	$ 450.00
Trammel nets	75.00	345.00	1,962.50	100.00	410.00
Hoop nets	2,200.00	1,205.00	12,633.00	2,375.00	1,365.00
Baskets	905.00	765.00	5,110.00	460.00	187.50
Hooks	65.00	77.00	399.00	47.00	10.00
Total	$ 4,095.00	$ 3,542.00	$ 22,379.50	$ 2,982.00	$ 2,422.50
Equipment					
Small boats	$ 722.50	$ 927.50	$ 5,490.00	$ 760.00	$ 1,255.00
Outboard motors	450.00	1,440.00	8,166.00	1,180.00	1,250.00
Inboard motor launches	3,012.50	2,337.50	275.00	--	85.00
Trucks	650.00	450.00	9,300.00	--	4,840.00
Refrigeration equipment	1,450.00	1,710.00	1,760.00	30.00	60.00
Buildings	2,500.00	2,700.00	11,375.00	150.00	--
Miscellaneous equipment	645.00	380.00	305.00	5.00	780.00
Total	$ 9,430.00	$ 9,945.00	$ 36,671.00	$ 2,125.00	$ 8,270.00
Grand total	$ 13,525.00	$ 13,487.00	$ 59,050.50	$ 5,107.00	$ 10,692.50

Table 11 (continued).--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen in navigation pools of the Mississippi River in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Pool No. 22	Pool No. 24	Pool No. 25	Pool No. 26
Fishing Devices				
Seines	$ 725.00	$ 300.00	--	$ 1,315.00
Trammel nets	110.00	275.00	$ 380.00	890.00
Hoop nets	505.00	2,082.00	3,680.00	14,434.00
Baskets	180.00	720.00	436.00	1,333.00
Hooks	--	--	28.00	175.00
Total	$ 1,520.00	$ 3,377.00	$ 4,524.00	$ 18,147.00
Equipment				
Small boats	$ 100.00	$ 1,121.00	$ 1,310.00	$ 4,885.00
Outboard motors	675.00	1,415.00	1,725.00	6,462.00
Inboard motor launches	500.00	150.00	1,000.00	1,215.00
Trucks	350.00	150.00	5,700.00	14,850.00
Refrigeration equipment	--	348.00	400.00	6,565.00
Buildings	300.00	--	400.00	3,395.00
Miscellaneous equipment	40.00	93.00	1,160.00	2,345.00
Total	$ 1,965.00	$ 3,277.00	$ 11,695.00	$ 39,717.00
Grand Total	$ 3,485.00	$ 6,654.00	$ 16,219.00	$ 57,864.00

Table 11 (concluded).--Reported estimated value of fishing devices and equipment used by Illinois commercial fishermen in navigation pools of the Mississippi River in 1950.

Fishing Devices and Equipment	Total, Canalized Section	Uncanalized, Alton to Cairo, Illinois	Grand Total
Fishing Devices			
Seines	$ 9,565.00	$ 951.00	$ 10,516.00
Trammel nets	5,922.50	75.00	5,997.50
Hoop nets	54,164.00	7,090.00	61,254.00
Baskets	13,173.50	25.00	13,198.50
Hooks	1,074.00	236.00	1,310.00
Total	$ 83,899.00	$ 8,377.00	$ 92,276.00
Equipment			
Small boats	$ 20,231.00	$ 1,060.00	$ 21,291.00
Outboard motors	28,876.00	1,671.00	30,547.00
Inboard motor launches	16,350.00	800.00	17,150.00
Trucks	50,150.00	7,125.00	57,275.00
Refrigeration equipment	14,788.00	1,006.00	15,794.00
Buildings	30,195.00	765.00	30,960.00
Miscellaneous equipment	8,363.00	711.00	9,074.00
Total	$ 168,953.00	$ 13,138.00	$ 182,091.00
Grand total	$ 252,852.00	$ 21,515.00	$ 274,367.00

Table 12.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken in hoop nets[1/] from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash, Little Wabash, and Skillet Fork	Sangamon River	Kaskaskia River
Carp	1,447,561	593,648	94,104	44,150	20,680
Buffalofishes	655,709	779,230	61,442	32,250	5,815
Drum	69,843	191,313	7,560	4,685	85
Catfishes	51,722	129,234	16,352	5,325	172
Bullheads	59,783	2,619	735	--	150
Shovelnose sturgeon[2/]	--	216	5,208	--	--
Paddlefish	1,928	12,617	4,049	--	--
Suckers	856	3,865	3,043	350	--
Carpsuckers	1,166	9,789	9,798	500	--
Bowfin	10,325	--	306	--	--
Eel	--	10	400	--	--
Total	2,298,893	1,722,541	202,997	87,260	26,902

1/ Hoop nets include wing nets, fyke nets, fiddler nets, and buffalo nets.

2/ Since hoop nets are inefficient in taking shovelnose sturgeon, the writers believe that the bulk of this catch was reported incorrectly. Hooks and trammel nets are considered the best tackle for shovelnose sturgeon in Illinois waters.

Table 12 (continued).--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken in hoop nets[1/] from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Rock River	Big Muddy River	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, and Backwaters of Ohio River
Carp	3,279	19,167	17,816
Buffalofishes	7,158	7,415	29,639
Drum	--	849	1,500
Catfishes	--	396	937
Bullheads	--	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon[2/]	--	--	--
Paddlefish	--	--	--
Suckers	3,000	--	--
Carpsuckers	2,000	--	--
Bowfin	--	--	--
Eel	--	--	--
Total	15,437	27,827	49,892

1/ Hoop nets include wing nets, fyke nets, fiddler nets, and buffalo nets.

2/ Since hoop nets are inefficient in taking shovelnose sturgeon, the writers believe that the bulk of this catch was reported incorrectly. Hooks and trammel nets are considered the best tackle for shovelnose sturgeon in Illinois waters.

Table 12 (concluded).--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken in hoop nets[1/] from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Embarrass River	Horseshoe Lake, Granite City	Total
Carp	2,066	450	2,242,921
Buffalofishes	1,116	1,010	1,580,784
Drum	--	--	275,835
Catfishes	140	480	204,758
Bullheads	13	12,250	75,550
Shovelnose sturgeon[2/]	--	--	5,424
Paddlefish	--	--	18,594
Suckers	--	--	11,114
Carpsuckers	--	--	23,253
Bowfin	--	280	10,911
Eel	--	--	410
Total	3,335	14,470	4,449,554

1/ Hoop nets include wing nets, fyke nets, fiddler nets, and buffalo nets.

2/ Since hoop nets are inefficient in taking shovelnose sturgeon, the writers believe that the bulk of this catch was reported incorrectly. Hooks and trammel nets are considered the best tackle for shovelnose sturgeon in Illinois waters.

Table 13.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken in seines from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash, Little Wabash, and Skillet Fork	Sangamon River	Rock River
Carp	2,420,563	163,411	1,900	4,400	4,370
Buffalofishes	656,470	123,876	2,000	--	7,025
Drum	32,672	141,608	--	--	--
Catfishes	12,923	17,452	--	--	--
Bullheads	11,294	30	--	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	200	--	--	--
Paddlefish	24,321	27,576	100	--	--
Suckers	116	155	--	--	--
Carpsuckers	91	630	--	--	1,500
Mooneye[1]/	--	225	--	--	--
Bowfin	200	150	--	--	75
Total	3,158,650	475,313	4,000	4,400	12,970

Kind of Fish	Fox River and Chain O'Lakes	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, and Backwaters of Ohio River	Horseshoe Lake, Granite City	Total
Carp	48,890	533	31,923	2,675,990
Buffalofishes	140	3,732	4,561	797,804
Drum	--	--	--	174,280
Catfishes	--	--	114	30,489
Bullheads	--	--	--	11,324
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	200
Paddlefish	--	--	--	51,997
Suckers	500	--	--	771
Carpsuckers	--	--	--	2,221
Mooneye[1]/	--	--	--	225
Bowfin	--	--	435	860
Total	49,530	4,265	37,033	3,746,161

1/ Mooneye also includes goldeye.

Table 14.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken in trammel nets from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Total
Carp	68,900	162,249	231,149
Buffalofishes	25,300	116,532	141,832
Drum	5,300	27,939	33,239
Catfishes	950	8,351	9,301
Shovelnose sturgeon	90	2,025	2,115
Paddlefish	--	1,650	1,650
Carpsucker	600	1,624	2,224
Total	101,140	320,370	421,510

Table 15.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken in basket traps from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Sangamon River	Kaskaskia River	Embarrass River	Total
Carp	100	--	--	--	--	100
Buffalofishes	150	--	--	--	--	150
Drum	150	100	--	--	--	250
Catfishes	24,095	207,516	450	65	390	232,516
Bullheads	7,895	2,445	1,000	--	20	11,360
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	100	--	--	--	100
Eel	--	150	--	--	--	150
Total	32,390	210,311	1,450	65	410	244,626

Table 16.--Reported catch in pounds of fish taken on hooks from Illinois rivers by Illinois commercial fishermen in 1950.

Kind of Fish	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Wabash, Little Wabash, and Skillet Fork	Sangamon River
Carp	6,850	16,987	--	--
Buffalofishes	1,800	1,883	--	--
Drum	420	4,552	--	600
Catfishes	15,864	34,355	1,857	--
Bullheads	1,900	753	--	--
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	268	1,433	--
Carpsucker	--	266	--	--
Eel	20	474	575	--
Total	26,854	59,538	3,865	600

Kind of Fish	Kaskaskia River	Rock River	Cache River, Lake Creek, Saline River, and Backwaters of Ohio River	Total
Carp	100	--	50	23,987
Buffalofishes	--	--	65	3,748
Drum	--	--	--	5,572
Catfishes	--	200	892	53,168
Bullheads	--	--	--	2,653
Shovelnose sturgeon	--	--	--	1,701
Carpsucker	--	--	--	266
Eel	--	--	--	1,069
Total	100	200	1,007	92,164

Seine haul at Lake Chautauqua, a bottomland lake along the Illinois River.